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The Onlooker

Borrowed Money In Wooden Buildings

Talking of schools, don't you think, reader, that the government has acted foolishly in putting loan money into wooden buildings for the Girls Industrial school at Moiliili? By the time the bonds are payable the structures will have decayed and dilapidated of weather and insects. It had been thought that Hawaii was long out of inventing borrowed money in anything but durable, not to say permanent, architecture. This is the age of concrete and steel, and wooden construction is regarded as fitting only border civilization.

Graver than the matter of lasting qualities of material in respect of weathering is the consideration of the fire risk involved in wooden houses for an institution that is to be the temporary home of girls, in seminars not for delinquents, here and elsewhere in the islands, fires have occurred and it is only a kind providence that is to be thanked that there have not been any holocausts in such cases. There have been narrow escapes from appalling casualties. Oahu College was the latest to receive a warning—less startling than it would have been if the girls' dormitory had taken fire when not empty in vacation—and the trustees of that institution have wisely rebuilt of concrete. It makes it look worse for the government that this example should have been flouted by it in the matter of the reformatory at Moiliili.

A lesser but still a noteworthy piece of short-sightedness on the part of the government—or is it the fault of the legislature through false economy?—is in making the fine new Puhukania schoolhouse at Kakaako too small for the attendance that showed up at the opening of the very first term in the building. "Build for the future" is a motto that governments should ever keep posted up before their eyes.

How'd You Like to be The Iceman?

"That's the fifth hand-scale that I have sold this forenoon, and about the hundred and fiftieth for the month. What in the Old Harry is up with all these women folks want scales all of a sudden?" soliloquized the clerk in one of this city's leading hardware stores.

"Say, that's easy," replied the "Home Sweet Home" who was standing close by. "Everybody's doing it." "Doing what?" quizzed the hardwareman. "Why, weighing the ice, of course. I won't say any more on that point, but I will tell you a story that comes direct from a lady I know, who lives on the first street mauka of King, near Pavaa Junction. The piece of ice left at this lady's house was never within four to ten pounds of the weight that she was paying for, and one morning recently she got hold of the boy that brings the ice, and wanted to know why it was that she never got the amount of ice she was charged with. The boy hung his head and did not answer.

"That's one of the reasons why you are selling so many hand-scales."

Life on The Waterfront

It has become the fad in the states for delegations of students from the public schools and colleges to visit the different factories and other institutions where labor of a skilled nature is being performed for the purpose of getting an insight at first-hand of the "wheels of industry" while they are whirling. This fad has been copied here and recently a delegation of Honolulu's fairest school girls, under proper chaperonnage, took in a number of the factories of the city and then wandered to the waterfront. They could think of no place of a familiar nature along the "front" except the Harbor Office, and they made for that.

After peeping in at the window they made bold enough to tackle a customs watchman, and asked him if that was the Captain inside the harbor office. He told them that it was, and after considerable giggling they went to the wharf end door and knocked. Of course the Captain was all "confused" for a few minutes, but after they told him what the object of their visit was, he assured them that they could not have hope alongside a better landing for information.

It so happened that there was a cruiser alongside the wharf, and the Captain steered the bevy of loveliness toward the big fighting machine. And from that time on the broadside of questions that they fired at the Captain kept him just about as comfortable as a cat with somebody standing on its tail.

Of course, the Captain knew all about man-o'-wars, so they kept him busy trying to answer questions, and he made the bravest kind of an attempt, describing all the different things they asked about, which sometimes brought a smile to his face, but he managed to "stand clear" until one of the sweet things asked him to show her a box of starboard tacks, and when last seen he was trying to get into the chest that the demurrage money is kept in.

It might be well to state, in passing, that there are two captains in the harbor office.

Inexorable Business

The everlasting truth "One-half of the world does not know how the other half lives" can well be balanced with "Sacrifices made and offered."

This latter was made manifest recently in this city, and it is probable that very few people knew of it, the chances being that the beneficiary of the proposed sacrifice is ignorant of its existence. It happened thus:

The controlling interest of a certain business in this city was purchased by a rival firm. As a consequence, some of the employees of the acquired store had to go. One of these employees, who had risen to a position that savored of consulting manager, fully expected that he would be one of the first to be dropped in the new regime. But not so; he was retained, not only in the employ of the firm but continued in his supervisory capacity. For convenience we will refer to him as Mr. X.

Among those who were "let out" was a man advanced in years, a man whose locks were well sprinkled with gray.

When Mr. X heard of this he went to the manager of the combine, and a conversation, similar to the following, took place:

Mr. X—"Regarding the discharge of Mr. —, he is a man who is getting well along in years, he has a wife and a child. Won't you please retain him in the service of the store and let me go?"

Manager—"But, Mr. X, you are a married man, too, with a family of little children."

Mr. X—"Oh, that's all right, I'm young. I'll find another job or position some place. Just retain him in your employ and let me out, if that will make the store force balance."

But the manager refused to see it in that light, and the other, who had been discharged, remained so.

It is rumored that the condition of Grand Duke Alexis, the crown prince of Russia, as a result of his recent accident, is very serious.

A city ordinance has gone into effect at Portland, Ore., obliging all owners of buildings used as saloons or lodging houses to have their names in a prominent place on the front of the building. It is believed that cleaner conditions will result.

Louis Mitchell, an aviator, while exhibiting at Montgomery, Ala., fell 200 feet and was killed.

WAR OF BALKAN ALLIES AGAINST HATED TURKS RESULT OF LONG UNREST AND STRIFE

Little States Rise Up Against Oppression of Ottoman Misrule

The present "Balkan trouble," which has turned the whole Balkan peninsula from the Danube to the Bosphorus into armed camps seething with battle, differs in an important respect from the periodic alarms of "trouble in the Balkans" of the last quarter of a century, in that it is caused by the uprising of the little States themselves that have hitherto been merely pawns in the diplomatic game of the great Powers, and not by the maneuvers of these powers for territorial aggrandizement.

Hitherto every threatened trouble in this much troubled land has been viewed with a certain amount of suspicion. There has always been the well-founded belief that whatever happened in the Balkans was fomented by one of the great Powers for its own ends. The hand of Austria or of Russia was always seen behind every movement. The present situation is, on the contrary, entirely free from this old suspicion.

The Balkan States, after being long driven in diplomatic harness, seem suddenly to have taken the bit in their teeth; while no one concerned to more astonished than the same Powers who hitherto have held the reins. The Balkan States have long been a promising field for almost any one's territorial ambitions, but the present moment is not, so Europe believes, the psychological one for their furtherment. Just now Europe wants things left as they are, wants Turkish territory left inviolate. And that is just what the Balkan States, aggressive and independent, have no intention of doing.

The Four Allies.

The four little States which have taken it on themselves to defy the Ottoman empire are Greece in the south, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro, extending along the Balkan Mountains in an almost unbroken line from the Black Sea to the Adriatic. That these four States should have formed a coalition as they now have is one of the surprising features of the whole affair. Only a few years ago most of the world had begun to believe that racial and national prejudices which the Turks in Abdul Hamid's day had played upon so effectively would make any approach to an understanding impossible. That they have reached this understanding is due to the fact that teachers of statecraft have been abroad in the Balkans spreading and impressing on the people the theories, long ago formulated, of some of the wisest of Serbian statesmen.

Once Part of Ottoman Empire.

Each of these four States was once part of the great Ottoman Empire that at one time reached almost to the gates of Vienna. Through their own insistent struggles and finally through the intervention of the Powers they obtained their independence, but the boundary lines that were drawn to form these States were made by diplomacy and the expediency of statecraft and in no case did they include all of the people that belonged to the different nationalities. The States have thrived even under great disadvantages, and today they demand of Turkey that the same blessings of independence they are themselves enjoying shall be extended to those of their own race who yet remain under Ottoman rule.

This desire to benefit their own people in the Ottoman Empire and to collect them into one racial body for back of the alleged altruistic motive must be considered the question of the territorial acquisition of the lands which they at present occupy is one of the chief factors in the Balkan question. This question, which has for so many years been of deep concern to every European chancellery, involves besides these four States and Turkey, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Great Britain. It is almost wholly a question of race and religion and the aspirations of the different kingdoms for possession of their ancient domains. Its most perplexing features would have been settled perhaps years ago had it not been for international jealousies. The passions grew, so far as the Powers themselves were concerned, out of a desire to gain possession for themselves of the most valuable parts of the crumbling Turkish Empire.



MAP OF BALKANS AND TURKEY, SHOWING SCENES OF CONFLICT.

The Berlin Treaty.

The Berlin treaty, signed July 13, 1878, at the close of the Russo-Turkish war, was the most notable and probably the most carefully worked out of all the attempts to adjust and balance the conflicting claims and interests in the Ottoman Empire. At this time Turkey's European possessions had dwindled to less than half of what they had been at the height of her glory. Greece had secured its freedom, Hungary, part of Roumania and parts of southern Russia had passed from under her control, the Bulgarians, Serbians, Montenegrins, Bosnians and Herzegovinians had been in revolt and were all demanding freedom. Austria-Hungary and Russia were each making claims for the pro-

tection of the Slavonic people, who were the chief inhabitants of the Balkan peninsula, and Great Britain on account of her Indian possessions was zealously watching the control of the Mediterranean and of Constantinople, which was then looked upon as "the key to the East."

Russia's Designs Foiled.

Russia had fought a successful war and was looking for rich rewards. If she really had ambitions for the acquisition of Constantinople, which had been one of the great points of Russian diplomatic policy as laid down by Peter the Great, she did not attempt to urge them. Instead through the treaty of San Stefano, which she had entered into with Turkey, she had hoped to establish a great Bulgarian

state that would be bound to her by race, religion and political necessities. This Bulgaria was to include most of Macedonia, with a seaport on the Aegean and a boundary that extended almost from Constantinople to Salonica. This would have made Bulgaria by far the most powerful of the Balkan states and would have given Russia the predominance influence there.

But at the very first sitting of the congress of Berlin, Prince Bismarck suggested that the question of the greatest importance was the "delimitation and the organization of Bulgaria." Thus Russia was compelled to give up her grand designs and the new Bulgaria was restricted to the part of Turkey lying between the Danube and the Balkan mountains. It was also

Critical View of Situation from Standpoint of European Statecraft

specified that the territory south of the line of the Balkans should remain under the authority of the Sultan. This was changed afterward so as to permit the formation of the state of eastern Rumelia, which is now incorporated as a part of Bulgaria.

The congress granted to Austria-Hungary, in consideration of opening up navigation on the lower Danube, the care of the two Turkish provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She was to develop them, but they were to remain under the sovereignty of the Porte. It established as independent states Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria and Roumania.

Two Questions Unsettled.

There still remained unsettled, however, two great questions, the disposition of Crete and of Macedonia. Plan after plan has been formulated and commission after commission has been appointed by the powers to bring peace and quiet to each of these disturbed lands. Everything has proved ineffectual. Crete has been the great disturbing factor in the internal politics of Greece, and the condition of Macedonia is now put forward as the reason for the threatened war.

But the Berlin treaty, with all its elaborate provisions and its delicate adjustments, was never very satisfactory to any of the powers concerned. Certain of its articles which were open to the charge of vagueness were from the first almost wholly disregarded, and much of it was violated in spirit if not in letter long before the notable day in 1908 when Austria-Hungary tore up the whole fine fabric.

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